

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9673

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 0729

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 1165(\* GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, BG, IN

SUBJ: ALLEGATIONS IN PRESS OF INDIAN SUBVERSION

REF: DACCA 0711

1. WHILE EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN OVER THE ALLEGEDLY EXCESSIVE WITHDRAWALS OF GANGA WATER AT FARAKKA BARRAGE MAY HAVE BEEN THE DOMINANT THEME IN BANGLADESH'S ANTI-INDIAN CAMPAIGN OVER THE LAST TWO WEEKS (E.G., SEE DACCA 0571), A SECOND, LESS PROMINENT THEME HAS OFFERED AN INTERESTING AND EQUALLY TROUBLING COUNTERPOINT. BEGINNING ON JANUARY 27, BOTH THE ENGLISH AND BANGLA PRESS HAVE CARRIED A SERIES OF "LETTERS TO THE EDITOR" AND REPORTS OF INTERVIEWS WITH BANGALEES WHO HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM INDIA OR WHO HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH BANGALEES IN INDIA. THE ACCOUNTS THEY CONTAIN ALL CENTER ON EFFORTS BY BANGALEES WHO HAVE FLED BANGLADESH TO RECRUIT THEIR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN FOR SUBVERSION AND, IM-CONFIDENTIAL

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PLICITLY, GUERILLA ACTIVITY AGAINST THE PRESENT REGIME. SOME OF THE ACCOUNTS ASSERT THAT THE INDIANS ARE PROVIDING TRAINING FOR TTU BANGALEES WHO CAN BE RECRUITED.

2. IN AN EFFORT TO ENHANCE THEIR CREDIBILITY, THE

"LETTERS" AND ARTICLES OFFER SOME SPECIFICS. FOR EXAMPLE, TWO ACCOUNTS NOTE THAT RECRUITMENT MAY BEGIN AT A "RECEPTION CAMP" AT BANGOAN WHILE ANOTHER MENTIONS AN ADDRESS IN CALCUTTA; THE LOCATION OF AN ALLEGED TRAINING CAMP HAS NOT, HOWEVER, BEEN SPECIFIED. MOREOVER, SOME OF THOSE ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN THE RECRUITING EFFORTS ARE NAMED. THE ACCOUNTS HAVE MADE REFERENCE TO TWO FORMER PARLIAMENTARIANS, CHITZRANJAN SUTAR AND PIHUSH KANTI BHATTACHARYA; AN EX-BAKSAL FUNCTIONARY, ANWAR CHOUDHURY; AND (IN ONE CASE) MOHIUDDIN, FORMER CHIEF SECURITY OFFICER TO THE LATE SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN.

3. COMMENT: THESE ARTICLES, LIKE ANOTHER APPEARING IN ITTEFAQ ON FEBRUARY 8 WHICH REHEARSED THE RECAPTURE OF A BORDER OUTPOST IN MYMENSINGH FROM "MISCREANTS" IN LATE JANUARY, ARE CLEARLY INTENDED TO REMIND READERS THAT A HOSTILE INDIA IS MAINTAINING PRESSURE ON BANGLADESH. HOWEVER, THIS NEW SERIES OF "LETTERS" AND ARTICLES REGARDING RECRUITMENT OF BANGALEES FOR SUBSERSIVE AND GUERILLA ACTIVITIES HAS AN UNREAL AIR, AND THUS -- IN OUR VIEW -- DOES NOT RPT NOT STRENGTHEN THE PERSUASIVENESS OF THE BANGLAEE CASE THAT INDIA ACTIVELY WISHES TO WORK BANGLADESH ILL.

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